

education partner on both a regional and national level as evidenced by the numerous training Memoranda of Understanding that are established and maintained with a myriad of other health care facilities.

The most impressive feature of Naval Medical Center Portsmouth is the caring environment provided by an outstanding team of military and civilian medical professionals. This fantastic staff accounts for the seamless transition into the Charette Health Care Center, in just five months, when the industry standard to relocate a hospital of this magnitude is typically longer than twelve months. The staff at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth continue to find innovative ways to make quality patient care accessible and have developed numerous patient-friendly amenities in the Charette Health Care Center. The opening of the Charette Health Care Center provides this dedicated team of medical professionals with the tools required to set a new and superior standard for healthcare delivery to the over 400,000 military beneficiaries in the Hampton Roads Area.

TRIBUTE TO BRUCE HARRIS

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 1999

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on a bittersweet note. One of the most valuable people on my staff will leave soon to pursue further professional goals and ideals. During my time as a Member of Congress, I have had the great pleasure of working with an extremely dedicated Chief of Staff, Bruce Harris. Bruce has been extremely loyal to me personally, and I am most grateful for that. More importantly, he has been loyal and devoted to the people of the First Congressional District of Arkansas.

Bruce will soon leave the office of the 1st Congressional District to go back to his home state of Arkansas and will be leaving huge shoes to fill. But he also leaves behind an outstanding record of achievement for the people of the 1st Congressional District of Arkansas, who have come to know, respect, and love him for his administrative talents, legislative skill, and his warm and caring personality.

Bruce is a native Arkansan. He has served the people of Arkansas first, as an aide to then-Representative Blanche Lincoln and then as chief of staff since 1997 when I came to office. He is remembered fairly and fondly by the many people with whom he has worked.

Bruce Harris is the kind of person who commands not only the respect and admiration of the staff, but also earns their fondness and loyalty as well. In short, he is a leader.

His personal style and professionalism will be missed, yet I know he will serve well in his new endeavor. It has been my extreme pleasure to have watched him develop and grow in running my operation, and although we will miss him, it is with great pride and admiration that I watch him take on this new and deserved challenge.

Mr. Speaker, my wife Carolyn and I, along with the entire 1st District staff, wish Bruce the very best in the future, and though we are said to lose such talent, we know we have in him the very best kind of friend, for life.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PROTECTION FOR TEMPORARIES IN THE WORKPLACE LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 1999

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce "Protection for Temporaries in the Workplace," legislation designed to address the lack of equity and economic security so prevalent among today's temporary workforce.

Our strong economy has yielded more jobs for Americans than at any other time in recent history. Indeed, joblessness is now far below what many economists thought could be sustained in a modern economy. Yet, the changes in the labor market over the past generation has raised concerns with job security, workplace protection and employee benefits. Once secure, a growing sector of today's workforce no longer has the luxury of working for the same employer until retirement.

Today, many full-time permanent jobs are being replaced by temporary positions as "flexibility" becomes a driving force sustaining our economic expansion. According to the National Association of Temporary Staffing Services, over 10 percent of today's workforce is temporary. These temporary jobs rarely offer adequate health or pension benefits. Additionally, many employees are misclassified as "temporary" when they are in fact, full-time employees. Many employment law protections are antiquated and often leave temporary workers no recourse against abusive employer practices. This is not only bad for the employees, but also bad for employers who do the "right thing" by taking responsibility for their workers by putting them at a competitive disadvantage with companies who skirt the law.

The temporary work industry is flourishing in large part because employers are turning to these work arrangements to cut costs and raise revenues because they can exclude employees from benefit plans and deny them protection under labor laws. This is creating a new working underclass and lowering our national living standard.

Although temporary work provides flexibility and independence for some Americans, others resort to "temping" only because they have not been able to secure permanent, full-time jobs. According to a report by Dr. Helene Jorgensen of the 2030 Center, temporary employees lack many of the benefits and protections that are standard with permanent employment. According to the report, only 5 percent of temporary workers age 25-34 have health insurance through their employer, whereas 50.5 percent of the general population is covered. In addition, these temporary employees earn on average 16.5 percent less than they would have earned working in a regular job.

More alarming are the instances in which companies regularly hire "temporary" employees for extended periods and continually exclude them from any benefit plans that they offer their "permanent" employees. In many cases, temporaries are performing the same work alongside a "permanent" employee, yet are taking home lower pay and have no access to health, vacation, or pension benefits. Employers regularly use this practice of hiring

"Permatemps" to keep the costs of their benefit plans at a minimum.

My legislative package will remedy these situations, and prohibit employers from evading their legal and moral responsibilities to their employees, without placing a mandate on America's businesses. Businesses are not required to provide benefits for temporary employees, but are prohibited from using underhanded tactics to exclude full-time employees who would be otherwise eligible to participate in a benefit plan.

The ERISA Clarification Act, amends the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) to prevent employers from misdesignating employees as "temporary", who are otherwise eligible for health, pension and other employee benefits.

Specifically, the bill defines "Year of Service" in ERISA to include all service for the employer as an employee under the common law, regardless of how or where the worker is paid—through an employment agency, payroll agency, temporary help agency or staffing firm.

The Equity for Temporary Workers Act, provides additional protection in the workplace for temporary employees by prohibiting discrimination in benefit plans that are not governed by ERISA, requiring temporary employees to receive equal pay for equal work and amending OSHA to ensure that employers are responsible for the health and safety of all employees at the worksite—not just those who are "permanent."

TRIBUTE TO GORDON BYNUM

HON. MARSHALL "MARK" SANFORD

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 1999

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to pay tribute to, and say good-bye to, a dear friend. Gordon you will be missed, but not forgotten. Gordon Bynum was the living definition of the word, "friend." This spring, on what turned out to be his last trip down to Coosaw, he called my wife, Jenny, ahead of time to say he wanted to come early to get things ready for the party. He was there and helped. This was part of a well worn pattern in the way he lived his life. Getting there early, staying later—going the extra mile—was what he thought normal. If I had ever found myself in real trouble with the option of only one call, it would have been to Gordon.

In his 44 years he did not spectate on life, he lived it. When Atlanta was still sleeping, I remember leaving town in the early morning hours to go on one of his crazy mountain canoe trips. Exotic locations, atlases, wilderness maps were part of Gordon's world; Jenny and I still have at the house National Geographic books he had sent after our wedding. In fact, his birthday card to me, this year, one I received two days after his death, had penned at the bottom, "Adventure soon?"

Finally, he lived a life that towers as an example to each of my four boys. At dinner on Tuesday upon hearing the story of Gordon's death, a friend asked, "Was he a Christian?" I said, "Absolutely." Whereupon he asked, "How do you know?" I said, "Because Matthew 5:16 says let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and

give glory to your Father who is in Heaven." He had the light, you could see it in his eyes and in his actions. One of those actions was his work at the Sheppard Clinic. He loved the patients and they loved him, despite the fact volunteerism is a trait lost on most bachelors. In short, he didn't spend his time talking about his faith, he lived it. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control are what the Bible calls the fruit—the byproduct—of the spirit. He had it in abundance. He would have given love and more generously to Marilee, who he was to have married two weeks after his death. Love was the easiest word to describe him, and I suppose what I will most miss. Good-bye.

IN HONOR OF JUAN CARLOS RUIZ,
OF MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 1999

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk today about a remarkable, courageous man who has dedicated himself to improving the lives of those around him. Mr. Juan Carlos Ruiz is a fine member of my home community of Milwaukee, Wisconsin and I am proud to announce that he has been recognized for his good work with the nation's most distinguished citation for community health leadership: the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Community Health Leadership Award.

Mr. Ruiz has been committed to social justice since he was politically active in his home country of Peru. Fourteen years ago, Mr. Ruiz discovered that his life may be in danger because of some work he was doing in opposition to "Shining Path" and was forced to flee his homeland. Four years later, he arrived in the United States where he secured political asylum. Mr. Ruiz quickly returned to community activism and leadership, helping develop a community nursing center at Riverwest Elementary School while working at the East Side Housing Action Coalition (ESHAC). He also coordinated a crime prevention campaign to identify and close down 50 suspected drug houses, as well as mobilize over 300 city residents behind a liquor license reform.

And, in his spare time, Mr. Ruiz helped to create and continue to run a neighborhood group, the Cleaning Out Riverwest Committee (CROC). CROC has redeveloped Gordon Park and provides recreational activities to youth.

For the past several years, Juan Carlos Ruiz has led the fight against childhood lead poisoning in inner-city Milwaukee. Ruiz is a community organizer for the Wisconsin Citizen Action Fund's Community Lead-Safe Zones project. He directs the Parents Against Lead Task Force (PAL) which focuses on inner-city low-income neighborhoods where over one-half the children tested have elevated levels of lead in their blood and lead poisoning rates are estimated at five times the national average. PAL recruits parents, and trains individuals to become community organizers and provide door-to-door and community-wide education forums. There are now over 50 active PAL members working in partnership with federal, state and local health departments, schools, churches, health centers, and parents to fight childhood lead poisoning in Milwaukee.

Mr. Ruiz has coined a rallying cry for parents and others concerned about childhood lead poisoning: "Stop Using Our Children as Lead Detectors." Under this banner, Ruiz scored a major victory for children when his group pushed an ordinance through City Hall that will make rental properties lead-safe homes for children. The program he championed also provides financing to help landlords in targeted neighborhoods assess and eliminate the problem. This initiative is the result of years of work, and Juan Carlos Ruiz built an effective partnership to get the job done. He worked with the Milwaukee Health Department and key members of the Milwaukee Common Council to build public awareness of childhood lead poisoning and support for the ordinance. He also helped me to get involved in the effort to help secure HUD funding that the City will use to implement the ordinance.

Juan Carlos Ruiz is a dedicated community servant, activist, and leader. He was selected as one of ten out of more than 300 nominated for this honor. Juan Carlos Ruiz is a credit to Milwaukee, and through his tireless work, my home town has become a better place to live and a safe place to grow up. I am proud to join his family, his colleagues and the Community Health Leadership Program in congratulating Juan Carlos Ruiz on a job well done.

HELP US TO PRESERVE THE HISTORY OF THE HOUSE

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 1999

Mr. LARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues about legislation I am introducing today to help preserve the history of the House.

Every time we pass through Statuary Hall, which is the old House chamber, we are reminded by the statue of Clio that our actions as members of the House should be recorded for the benefit of future generations. Unfortunately, however, we do not have an updated narrative history of the House of Representatives, especially one arranged chronologically. Moreover, it seems that the only time we take stock of the history of the individual members of the House is either when they retire, such as the recent tribute to Representative Robert L. Livingston, or when they die, such as the recent memorial service for Representative Mo Udall. These events, however, are fleeting snapshots of the rich portrait that is the House and its members, which is why we need a more comprehensive history.

My bill, the History of the House Awareness and Preservation Act, would authorize the Library of Congress to commission eminent historians to assemble a written history of the House. The history is intended for Members, staff, and the general public. Copies will be provided to each Member and will also be sold to the general public by the Library of Congress. It is expected that there will be no cost to the federal government for this book. The bill lets the experts at the Library decide whether the cost of this book should be paid for by selling it or through the raising of private funds.

The bill would also allow the Library to update and expand the collection of oral histories

of members given to the Library by the Association of Former Members of Congress, and it is hoped that the oral histories will be made available in digital format so they can be downloaded from the Library's Internet Web Page. Additionally, the bill contains two sense of the Congress provisions, which state that orientation programs for freshman members of the House should contain a seminar on the history of the House, and that the Speaker of the House should conduct a series of fora on the history of the House.

I am introducing this bill with over 240 original co-sponsors, including the Speaker of the House, the Honorable J. DENNIS HASTERT, and the Democratic Leader, the Honorable RICHARD A. GEPHARDT. I sincerely appreciate their endorsement and encouragement.

I am including a copy of a letter in support of this bill from the Librarian of Congress, Dr. James H. Billington, for which I am very grateful. I would like to urge the rest of my colleagues to support this bi-partisan effort in order to ensure that we do our best to preserve the history of this great body in which we serve.

THE LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS

June 22, 1999.

HON. JOHN B. LARSON,

U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. LARSON: I very much appreciate the opportunity to review the final version of your draft bill authorizing the Library of Congress to oversee the preparation of a written history of the House of Representatives. I believe the legislation you have developed allows the Library to bring together a number of necessary elements to produce an authoritative publication that will fill a void in the annals of the Congress, and I support both the bill's goal and substance.

Your legislation will allow the Library's publishing office and curatorial staff to work together to develop the project, identify primary source material in our collections, and explore various options for its publication. As I indicated in my comments on an earlier draft of the legislation, I envisage appointing a scholarly advisory board, including historians as well as current and former Members of Congress, to assist in the selection of one or more historians to provide the text of the book, and to continue to be involved through the publication stage. The legislation provides sufficient discretion for the Library to work out the details of funding, publication, marketing and distribution in a manner consistent with the best interests of the House of Representatives.

The legislation also reflects the appropriate roles of the Library of Congress and the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress in the collection and preservation of oral histories of the Congress. These will undoubtedly prove invaluable to some future historian in continuing the narrative begun by your legislation.

I would like to extend again my offer to hold a lecture series on the history of the House of Representatives in the Members' Room, as a way of both stimulating interest in the published history and drawing together Members, former Members, historians and the Library's incomparable collections for the enjoyment and enlightenment of all.

Sincerely,

JAMES H. BILLINGTON,

The Librarian of Congress.